

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A gear pump ~~which incorporates~~ comprising:
a ring gear [(16)] supported for rotation, having an open center region, and having internal teeth projecting into the center region; [(16a),]
a gearwheel [(17)] arranged ~~eccentrically~~ eccentrically within the center region of the ring gear [(16)] and ~~incorporating~~ including external teeth [(17a)] intended to engage with the ring gear's gear internal teeth, the gearwheel having a hole through it, the gearwheel having an axial extent; (16a), and
a rotatable shaft ~~(9)~~ ~~incorporating~~ including a portion which extends through [(a)] the hole [(18)] in the gearwheel~~[(,)]~~; ~~while said~~ the portion of the shaft ~~incorporates~~ includes a first surface [(21')] and the gearwheel ~~incorporates~~ includes a second surface [(22')], ~~which the~~ first surface [(21')] and the second surface [(22')] are [(so)] shaped [(as)] to allow transfer of rotary motion from the shaft [(9)] to the gearwheel, and a (17), characterised in that said transfer between the first surface [(21')] and the second surface [(22')] takes place via a region of contact [(a)] which has an axial extent equal to less than half of the gearwheel's gearwheel axial extent [(b)] and ~~which the region~~ is divided by a radial plane [(c)] which extends centrally through the gearwheel [(17)].
2. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that said~~ wherein the radial plane [(c)] is located so it divides the region of contact [(a)] into two substantially equal areas.
3. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterised in that said~~ first surface (21') is incorporated in further comprising a recess [(21)] in the shaft [(9)] in which the first surface is included.

4. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to ~~any one of the foregoing claims, characterised in that said~~ claim 1, wherein the second surface [(22')] is ~~incorporated~~ included in a portion [(22)] of the gearwheel [(17)] which extends radially inwards in the gearwheel's gearwheel hole [(18)].

5. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to ~~any one of the foregoing claims, characterised in that said~~ claim 1, having an open center region, the second surface [(22')] has a substantially planar extent in an axial direction and ~~that said~~ the first surface [(21')] has a curved extent in an axial direction ~~with a shape such that said~~ and shaped to define the region of contact ~~(a) is constituted.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that that~~ wherein the first surface [(21')] has a curved extent beyond the region of contact ~~(a) so that~~ causing the distance between the first surface [(21')] and the second surface (22') ~~increases to~~ increase in proportion to the distance out from the region of contact [(a)].

7. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to ~~any one of the foregoing claims 1 to 4, characterised in that said~~ claim 1, wherein the first surface [(21')] has a planar extent in an axial direction and ~~that said~~ the second surface [(22')] has a curved extent in an axial direction with a shape ~~such that said~~ to define the region of contact ~~(a) is constituted.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A gear pump according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the second surface [(22')] has a curved extent beyond the region of contact so that the distance between the first surface [(21')] and the second surface [(22')] increases in proportion to the distance out from the region of contact.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A hydrodynamic brake gear pump according to claim ~~[[9]]~~ 11, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hydrodynamic brake ~~incorporates~~ further comprises a structure with a multiplicity of recesses ~~[[(14)]]~~ for accommodating various components of the brake, ~~[[(15)]]~~, each of ~~which~~ the recesses ~~[[(14)]]~~ has an opening in a substantially common plane ~~[[(A)]]~~, and ~~that the gear pump (15') is intended to be~~ is arranged in one of ~~said~~ the recesses ~~[[(14')]]~~.

11. (New) A hydrodynamic brake comprising a stator with blades, a rotor with blades, and the rotor and stator defining a working space to receive a medium, an inlet and an outlet from the working space; a storage space for the medium and connected to the inlet to the space; and

the gear pump of claim 1 between the working space and the inlet, the pump being operable for transferring medium from the space to the working chamber.